sculptured. It is supported on six columns, the shafts twisted and inlaid with mosaic bands. These columns are carried by six marble lions in marching order, three and three; the carving throughout is delicate and varied. The capitals now engraved are about 1 foot 3 inches in height. The date of erection is 1260. No. 7 is from the ruins of an old palace of about the same date, closely adjoining the cathedral. It is usually called the palace of Charles of Anjou.

Nos. 8 and 9 are from a pulpit in the cathedral at Salerno, erected about the year 1170 by the Archbishop Romoald. The execution of these caps is superior to that of the Ravello examples of nearly a century later, and is a good specimen of the use of the peculiar *drilling* that characterizes so much the works of the Greek artists of the period. The cathedral at Salerno was built by Robert Guiscard, with materials brought chiefly from the ruins of Pæstum. No. 8 is an elegant specimen, and partakes rather of the fancy of the cinquecentisti than of the workmen of the twelfth century.

THE AIR SYPHON VENTILATOR.

We mentioned a short time since Dr. Chowne's patent mode of ventilation founded on his asserted discovery that, "if a bent tube or hollow passage be fixed with the legs upwards, the legs being of unequal lengths, whether it be in the open air, or with the shorter leg communicating with a room or other place, the air circulates up the longer leg, and that it enters and moves down the shorter leg; and that this action is not prevented by making the shorter leg hot, whilst the larger leg remains cold; and no artificial heat is necessary to the longer leg of the Air Syphon, to cause this action to take place." Thus, by using the chimney of an ordinary room, for example (into which air has free access), as the longer leg, and by conducting a tube or channel constituting the short leg of the Air Syphon, from any part (as near the ceiling, for instance), into the lower part of the chimney, at the suitable place, a stream of air will proceed from the apartment down the shorter leg, and away up the longer one.

The *Illustrated News* of last week gives two diagrams, farther elucidating the patentee's views. These show that a portable ventilator may be set up on a chimney piece, in the shape of a vase, or column perforated, and having a tube carried from the bottom, and continued into the chimney.* "In assembly-rooms, even where fire is not used, which become over-heated and close, to whatever part of the room rout-forms extend, the means of ventilation can also be conducted, either by channels (as light zinc tube) suspended under the forms, or by making the forms themselves hollow channels. In either case this channel being made continuous, and finally passing through an opening in a chimney-board, or by some similar arrangement, into the fireplace, and tubes passing from these to the upper parts of the room, the warm air would constantly descend through them to the continuous channel, and then into the larger leg of the Syphon." To convey away the heat from gas or other lamps, in drawing-rooms or large working apartments, it is proposed to perforate an ornamental pillar, and carry a piece of tubing under the floor to the nearest chimney. According to the diagrams it is unnecessary that the two legs of the Syphon should be of the same diameter. We have yet to see the plan in operation.

Iron Houses Abroad.—The *Journal de Liege* states that at the establishment of Seraing, and others near Verviers, a great number of cast-iron (corrugated) cottages and warehouses have been constructed, and shipped at Antwerp for the gold regions of California. A chapel and church in iron have been made for the Missionary Society of Brussels, which has attracted curiosity. Now that affairs are more tranquil in France, a great many Englishmen are employed in the iron foundries, steel factories, and the engine and machinery works.

* The patentee says,—"When this ventilator is used without a fire, as for example in the summer, it will be better (although not necessary), that the space left in the opening of the valve of the register, between the tube and the margins of the opening, should be closed by a piece of sheet tin, cut so as to fit and cover the space."

RENAISSANCE DOORWAY, ST. ANDREW'S, JOIGNY, FRANCE.

RENAISSANCE DOORWAY,
ST. ANDREW'S, JOIGNY, FRANCE.

The church of St. Andrew, at Joigny, contains several matters of interest to artists, especially some paintings of the fourteenth century, and some good sculpture.

The side door represented above is a graceful composition of the Renaissance period. The arrangement of the pedestal of the columns, the large frieze with its sculptured decoration, and the management of the upper storey, are all worthy of note.

BOOKS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

As a working man, allow me to thank you for the fresh proof of your goodwill to our class, contained in your last number. There is a tendency to move forward to supply the defects therein laid open, and I am, as one of the starved in book-knowledge, deeply grateful for your attack on the castle of ignorance. Might I beg of you to bring before the public a suggestion made some years ago, and unheeded? That a building *apart* from the British Museum, and thereby obviating the danger of fire to that institution, should be appropriated to the reception of duplicate copies which, from various causes, are found in that library, that so the nucleus of *a library for working men, to be opened from six to eleven o'clock at night*, might be provided. Tickets might be given under restrictions, as at present, and works *lent out* upon a deposit equal to the value of them. I lay much stress upon this last item. Although the quiet of a reading-room is favourable for study, yet the possession of a book, unattainable from the ordinary libraries and very far beyond the means of a working man to purchase, gives a charm to the deal table and clean-swept hearth of home, which would not exist in the gas-lit and French-polished public reading-room. Besides, a working man, after finishing his day's work, must go home for some refreshment; and if not able to keep a book at home a few days, must lose some time in "cleaning himself." This would involve perhaps a wearing of the better coat and hat in the evening, as most men would not like to go in the stains of their labour,—albeit not ashamed of them.

I have had, through the kindness of a friend, the privilege conferred on me of a reading order for the British Museum library, but although I have had it now fourteen months, have been able but *three* times to avail myself of it. I am in the position of a starving man with a good 50*l.* note in his possession, for which no one will give change. I believe there is no want of sympathy on the part of our influential men with the growing desire for knowledge evinced by the working classes, but they want to be led to consider the subject; and I further believe it to be the mission of The Builder to keep the matter before the public. What organ so proper as the publication which is thumbed, and dirtied, and greased by working men, smiths, bricklayers, masons, and carpenters; consulted by architects, and land-owners, and clergy; and which lies (so report says) on the table of the "first gentleman" in the land?

Ogee.

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